



NEWSLETTER



Welcome

What a busy and successful year it has been at SMI! Throughout the year, our students have continued to excel both inside and outside the classroom, showing dedication, resilience, creativity and school spirit in all they do.

There have been many highlights across the school community, with students embracing a wide range of learning opportunities, extracurricular activities and memorable experiences that have enriched school life and created lasting friendships and memories.

Our sporting achievements have once again been a source of great pride, with fantastic success across a range of teams. Students showed tremendous commitment, teamwork and determination throughout the year, which was a credit to themselves and the school. These accomplishments are only possible because of the dedication of our staff, the support of parents and guardians, and most importantly, the enthusiasm and effort of our students. SMI continues to be a community where students are encouraged to strive for excellence and make the most of every opportunity.

In relation to Teaching and Learning, our School Improvement Plan will be available to view on our school website following ratification by the Board of Management in June.

As another successful school year comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to making SMI such a vibrant and supportive place to learn and grow. Wishing all our students, families and staff a safe and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in August.

Sincerely,
Michelle Thompson
Principal

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TY Fashion Show

On March 19th, the TY students held their annual Fashion Show in the school, supported by local boutiques, charity shops, and businesses that helped make the event possible. Inspired by The Great Gatsby, the show featured student-designed artwork, a Vinted section promoting sustainable fashion, a raffle, and a special presentation on the TY students' trip to Kolkata, India, with the Hope Foundation. The night also included group performances and was a great success, thanks to the hard work of students, teachers, and the generosity of the local community.



Raising Teens in a Hashtag World

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Maureen Griffin, forensic psychologist and Director of MGMS Training Limited, who delivered a presentation for parents titled "Raising Teens in a Hashtag World." The talk provided valuable guidance on online safety, digital boundaries, and healthy technology habits, while exploring current online trends, risks, and practical ways to protect young people. Topics included social media, AI challenges, cyber-bullying, screen time, sleep, and online safety issues. The presentation was highly informative and gave students, teachers and parents valuable insights into supporting teenagers in today's digital world.



World Book Day

For World Book Day, the staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books. The students had to guess the characters. It was lots of fun for the whole school community on the day. Students voted for the best costumes. Prizes on the day went to Ms Scanlon (Ms Rachel), Ms McNamara (an SMI Student) and Ms Reidy (The Mad Hatter). Overall, it was a wonderful day of excitement and fun.



Retreat

This year, students participated in a religious retreat hosted by Seamus and Mike from An Tobar Nua, a Galway-based charity. Through games and challenges, the retreat fostered a sense of community while teaching students to navigate life's pressures and find purpose. It was an informative and enjoyable experience that encouraged open discussions about well-being and faith.



TY Paris Tour

On the 26th of January, TY students and teachers travelled to Paris for an unforgettable trip filled with sightseeing, shopping, and fun. Highlights included visiting the Eiffel Tower, cruising along the Seine, exploring the Champs-Élysées, and spending a magical day in Disneyland with rides and fireworks. Students also enjoyed shopping, a tour of the Stade de France, and making lasting memories with friends. A special thank you to Ms Phillips for organising the trip and to all the teachers who helped make it such a memorable experience.



TY's India Trip

On 26th February, nine Transition Year students, accompanied by Ms Brosnan and Mr Scanlon, travelled to Kolkata, India, where they saw first-hand the impact of the money they raised for the Hope Foundation. They visited hospitals, rehab centres, protection homes, and slum areas, gaining a deeper understanding of local challenges and a greater appreciation for their own opportunities. The group also celebrated Holi with the Kaasba girls' protection home, experiencing Indian culture through the colourful festival. Their final night brought fun and lasting memories as they embraced Indian traditions together. The trip was a valuable experience of helping others, cultural exchange, and personal growth.



Teachers V's Students

This year's eagerly awaited rounders competition saw our 6th Years go head-to-head with the teaching staff. Our confident 6th Years, sure of victory, were left stunned by the ferocious skill of the teachers' team. Despite the 6th Years' best efforts, it was another triumphant win for the teachers, proving their dominance on the rounders pitch once more!



5th Year Italy Trip

In April, 22 students and 3 teachers travelled to Florence and Pisa for an unforgettable five-day trip filled with culture, history, art, and fun. Highlights included visiting the Leaning Tower of Pisa, exploring Florence's famous landmarks and galleries, and seeing Michelangelo's David. Students also enjoyed authentic Italian food, evening activities, and time together making lasting memories. A special thank you to Ms Barry for organising the tour, and to Ms Cahill and Mr O'Sullivan for helping make the trip such a success.



1st Years Trip

Our 1st Years enjoyed an unforgettable wellbeing trip to Inch Beach, where they took to the waves for a day of surfing and fun. Although the weather wasn't ideal, it certainly didn't dampen their spirits! The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for students to connect, build friendships, and get to know each other better outside the classroom. A huge thank you to Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Moroney for organising such a wonderful experience, and to Ms. O'Sullivan and Ms. Scanlan for supervising and supporting the students throughout the day.

The week concluded with a wellbeing morning and a visit to Sneasa Brew, where the students were very kindly looked after. It was a fitting end to a positive and memorable week focused on wellbeing and connection.



2nd Years Trip



Our 2nd Year students enjoyed a fantastic end-of-year wellbeing trip to Emerald Park, filled with excitement, laughter, and unforgettable memories. The day provided a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to relax, connect, and celebrate the year together while enjoying all the thrills and adventures the park had to offer.

Some of the bravest students and staff even took on Europe's largest roller coaster, adding an extra element of excitement to an already memorable day.

A sincere thank you to Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Moran for organising such a successful trip, and to Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Scanlan, and Ms. McNamara for supervising and joining in the fun, helping to make the day so enjoyable for everyone involved.

5th Years Trip

Our Fifth Year students enjoyed a fantastic end-of-year wellbeing trip to Splash Sports, where they embraced the waters of Kerry for a day full of fun, laughter, and adventure.

The trip gave students a wonderful opportunity to unwind, connect with one another, and create lasting memories together outside of the classroom. From start to finish, the day was filled with great energy, teamwork, and plenty of smiles. A sincere thank you to Ms. Philips and Ms. Kennedy for organising such an enjoyable experience, and to Ms. Collins for helping out and supporting the students throughout the day.



Transition Year Update

What an incredible year it was for our Transition Year students at SMI! They truly embraced every opportunity, making the most of a diverse and engaging programme designed to broaden their horizons and develop new skills.

Throughout the year, students took part in a wide range of activities and workshops including Chef Tom Flavin, Segways for Schools, Chess, Sign Language, the Lifesaver Project, a Driving Course, Ice Skating, Shane Casey and Bernard Casey workshops, the Next Gen DJ Workshop, Samba Drumming, Jiving, Golf, Surfing, and Cycling on the Greenway. TY students also enjoyed trips and activities such as bowling, the Aquadome, Knock, and friendly competition in darts and FIFA tournaments.

Students developed practical life skills, built confidence, and strengthened friendships through their experiences, alongside work experience placements and showcasing their talents in the TY Fashion Show. The year concluded with a wonderful Graduation Ceremony, celebrating all they had achieved. We are incredibly proud of our Transition Year students and look forward to seeing them continue to thrive as they begin 5th Year.

We were absolutely thrilled to celebrate their achievements at a fabulous graduation ceremony at the end of the year. We are so proud of each and every one of our Transition Year students and look forward to welcoming you into 5th Year!



Sports Updates

This year has been a very busy and successful one for our Sports Teams!

This year our camogie teams had great success. The 1st and 2nd Year Camogie Team narrowly lost the Division 1 Final in a thrilling game. The Junior Camogie Team had a prosperous season built on dedication and teamwork. Making history, the Senior Camogie Team were crowned All Ireland Senior D Camogie Champions in February this year making history as the first ladies team to bring national success to the school. We are looking forward to next season already.



In hurling, the 1st Year Hurling Team gained valuable experience reaching the county final but were unfortunate to lose out to Hazelwood, the U15 Hurling team showed great promise winning the U15 County Title and losing the Munster B semi final by 2 points. They also were extremely competitive in the All Ireland Super 9s Tournament playing amongst the top 16 Hurling schools in the country playing against St Kierans, De La Salle and many others and reached the Shield final. The U17 hurlers reached the Limerick Schools Championship semi-finals. Finally, the Senior Hurling team showed great progress reaching the Munster B semi Final in their first year competing at this grade after last year's All Ireland Success, They finished the year winning the County Final over Kilmallock.



The 1st Year Ladies Football teams had great years. It was great to field two teams this year and both teams had good years being competitive in all games. The Junior Ladies Football team showcased incredible dedication, getting as far as the Munster semi final and securing the County A Cup for the third year in succession. The Senior Ladies Football team had a great year also, they were very unlucky to lose the Munster final but bounced back by winning the county A final.



Sports Updates Continued...

On the boys' football side, the 1st Year Boys Football team had a good year, being competitive in the county competition. The Under 15 Boys had a great year winning all of their games. They won the Munster final and are also in a county final that will be played at the beginning of next year. The U17's team are awaiting to play the county final at the beginning of next year.



Soccer enjoyed an excellent year across all age groups. The U15 Boys were crowned Munster Champions, while both the U15 and U19 Girls reached Munster Semi-Finals after a series of strong performances. The undefeated 1st Year Girls progressed to a Munster Quarter-Final, and the 1st Year Boys made a dramatic run to the Munster A Shield Quarter-Final. The U17 and U19 Boys teams also showed significant improvement throughout the season.



Both the 1st and 2nd Year girls' basketball teams had strong campaigns in the South West Girls' Basketball Division, with both sides reaching the semi-finals. The 1st Year team defeated Newport to progress to the final and, after a hard-fought battle against Coláiste Nano Nagle, finished runners-up in the competition. Coláiste Iosaef, Kilmallock, narrowly defeated the 2nd Year team in their semi-final. Both teams showed great promise for the years ahead.



Congratulations

Congratulations to SMI's Senior Camogie team on their fantastic achievement in winning the Senior D All-Ireland Camogie title and being crowned All-Ireland Champions. The team recently celebrated their success at the Longcourt House Hotel, where they were proudly presented with their medals.



Congratulations to the 6th Year students at SMI who were recently recognised for their hard work, dedication, and achievements at the Leaving Cert Awards Ceremony.

